

16. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said second and third mirrors construct an inverted-V-shaped mirror unit.

17. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said color-separation means comprises a transmission or reflection diffraction grating.

18. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said color-separation means comprises a dichroic prism or dichroic mirror.

REMARKS

This is to acknowledge the statement in the above-identified Office Action that Claims 2-9 contain allowable subject matter. In this regard, however, Applicants have made minor changes to the form of the claims and respectfully submit that all of the claims as now presented are patentably distinct over the cited references.

Claim 1 is the sole independent claim in the application and is directed to a color image reading apparatus. The last element in the claim requires "first optical means, inserted in a second optical path between the object and said imaging means for temporarily imaging the object in a subscanning direction in said second optical path". Applicants respectfully submit that neither of the rejecting references, Fujimoto or Hasegawa, includes such a means for temporarily imaging the object in a subscanning direction in an optical path between the object and the imaging means. Specifically, Applicants submit that Fig. 1B of Fujimoto, as relied upon by the Examiner, provides an optical flux which is focused only on the sensor 4, and that that sensor corresponds to the light receiving means recited in Applicants' independent

Claim 1. The function and disposition of the sensor in Fujimoto does not suggest in any way the function and disposition of the “first optical means” in Applicants’ Claim 1. Again, the Hasegawa reference does not disclose the above-referenced concluding clause of Claim 1 and the Office Action makes no specific designation of such a disclosure in Hasegawa. Accordingly, Applicants’ respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 and all of dependent Claim 2-18 are patentably distinct over the cited references.

Claims 11-18 were rejected as being anticipated by Hasegawa, as set forth in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully point out that each of those claims depends from claim 1, which requires the presence of a first optical means disposed between the object and the imaging means; wherefore, as shown in Fig. 1 of Hasegawa as relied upon by the Examiner, Hasegawa does not provide any such first optical means provided before the optical lens 108. In Hasegawa, the lens 108 is provided right in front of element 103, which corresponds to the light receiving means of Applicants’ claimed invention.

For all these various reasons Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance in the above-identified application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 24,613

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A color image reading apparatus comprising:
light-receiving means formed by [setting] a plurality of line sensors
[on a single substrate];
imaging means for providing a light beam image of [imaging] an
object;
color-separation means, inserted in [an] a first optical path between
said imaging means and light-receiving means, for color-separating [a] said scanning light
beam [coming from the object] into a plurality of color light beams; and
first [cylinder] optical means, inserted in [an] a second optical path
between the object and said imaging means, for temporarily imaging the object in a
sub-scanning direction in [an] said second optical path [before said imaging means].
2. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
line spacing correction means for correcting deviations of imaging
positions on a surface of said light-receiving means caused by different wavelengths of the
color light beams color-separated by said color-separation means; and
second [cylinder] optical means having a power in the sub-scanning
direction.
3. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said
color-separation means, said line spacing correction means, and said second [cylinder]
optical means are inserted in the optical path between said imaging means and said

light-receiving means and are placed in an order of said color-separation means, said line spacing correction means, and said second [cylinder] optical means from the side of said imaging means.

4. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said color-separation means, said line spacing correction means, and said second [cylinder] optical means are inserted in the optical path between said imaging means and said light-receiving means and are placed in an order of said second [cylinder] optical means, said color-separation means, and said line spacing correction means from the side of said imaging means.

7. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a slit is placed at or near a position where said first [cylinder] optical means temporarily images.

8. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said first [cylinder] optical means comprises a cylindrical lens having a power in the sub-scanning direction.

9. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said second [cylinder] optical means comprises a first cylindrical lens having a negative power in the sub-scanning direction, and a second cylindrical lens having a positive power in the sub-scanning direction.

10. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said color-separation means color-separates said scanning [an incoming] light beam image into three color light beams in a direction perpendicular to a line-up direction of pixels of said line sensors.

11. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising first, second, and third mirrors inserted in the optical path between the object and said imaging means, and

wherein said first [cylinder] optical means comprises at least two cylindrical lenses, and a slit is placed at or near a position where the cylindrical lens placed on the object side temporarily images the object.

15. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the cylindrical [lenses] lens placed on the side of said imaging means has a positive refractive power, and is placed in the vicinity of said imaging means.